

Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, August 15, 1844, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, August 15, 1844.

Private.

My dear Mr. F. P. Blair, I am here alone, but my servants, all gone to the Mass meeting at Nashville—When I move panting for breath and unable to be with them. I have this morning received your interesting letters of the 4 and 5th, instant, which I have read with great attention and interest, and take my pen more with the view of letting you know I have received them, than to answer them.

I believe I informed you in my last that I had written Houston, as patriotic a letter as I could dictate. What effect it may have of keeping Texas out of the snares of England and France I cannot say. I have not received his answer. The present situation of Texas under the threatened invasions of Mexico with such formidable force, is an alarming one, and what necessity may coerce her to do without aid from the U. States under the circumstance, I cannot conjecture, and shews the folly, and I may add, the treason to the best interests of our Union, by rejecting the treaty which at once give us the country, and security to Texas. merely the idea, that Mexico would have made it the cause of war, is both futile, and absurd. Mexico, who cannot raise the funds to support an invading army and their proper supplies, for one month without the aid of England was farcical. But England is exciting Mexico to this threatened invasion, I have no doubt. She has two moving objects—first to alarm Texas, and coerce her to accept her and France's propositions. if Texas

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does not enter into their views then the means will be advanced, by them secretly , to push this formidable invasion, whilst Texas is unprepared to meet, and successfully resist it, drive the Texas Government beyond the Sabine and in ten days sell Texas to Great Britain to pay her debt of 70 or 80 millions. Mark! This will be the result unless intimidated by some movement by the U. States to give confidence to Texas, and intimidate England and Mexico.

From the situation of Texas, of which I advised our friend Benton pending the Treaty, I fear Texas is gone from us and in the embrace of England. Houston has been most cruelly treated. Informed as he was confidentially by members of the senate, that if he would sanction a treaty of reanexation that it was sure to be ratified thirty six senators being pledged to vote for the ratification, he consented, altho the treaty as made did not meet his views fully. under this circumstance you may judge of the feelings of Houston on its rejection. I fear therefore that Texas is gone from our reach until regained from the power of England at the point of the bayonet. if so what must be the curses pronounced by the american people against those who voted against the treaty, and cast Texas from us, so necessary to the security and interest of our whole Union, for President making and mere technicalities; and no movement made by the democracy to have a law passed upon the subject. Col. 0338 314 Bentons law 1 would have been viewed by Texas as the greatest insult. Texas still an appendage to Mexico, such a law would have been indignantly rejected by Texas. I must close and leave you to your own reflections.

1 Benton's bill authorized and advised the President to negotiate with Mexico and Texas for the adjustment of the boundaries between them, and it gave authority to annex Texas to the United States when such adjustment was made. See Benton, Thirty Years's View , II. 619.

I must add you had like to have caused the democracy in Tennessee to have withdrawn from your paper by your publishing Bentons speeches against the treaty and not Buchannans etc. etc. Col. Bentons speeches has injured the Democratic cause more than

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all the whiggs, and you may rest assured he never can regain his former standing with the democracy. Trist will not be forgotten, Mr. Calhoun is well understood, Mr. McDuffie is at Nashville and will be called on to adress the people and an able address is expected. I rejoice to learn from your letter that we will have the pleasure of seeing your youngest son, Frank, at the Hermitage. the delegation from Missouri waited upon me yesterday, both parties together, and I suppose, Frank, had not reached Nashville when they left. he, I hope, will be up to night with my family.

All our kind regards to you and all your amiable family. May god bless you and all your family, farewell.

yr. friend